

WE CLAIM:

[c1] A portal for a communications system comprising a terminal connected via a communications network to a broadcast center, the portal comprising:

a display connected to the remote terminal for displaying an arrangement of cells, each cell comprising a visual object and an underlying application;
and

a user input device for inputting user inputs to select one of the cells,
wherein the cells include one cell having at least some characteristics determined at the broadcast center and another cell having at least some characteristics determined in accordance with data stored at the terminal.

[c2] The portal according to claim 1, wherein the cells include one or more dynamically changing cells.

[c3] The portal according to claim 1, wherein the cells include one or more context-sensitive cells.

[c4] A method of generating a portal for a communications system, comprising:
receiving a plurality of programs;
continuously monitoring data indicative of characteristics of the received programs;
generating a portal comprising cells containing current video of at least some of the received programs and organized based on the characteristics of the received programs; and
dynamically re-organizing the cells when the monitored characteristics of one or more of the received programs change.

- [c5] The method according to claim 4, wherein the cells are organized based on the themes of the received programs.
- [c6] The method according to claim 4, wherein the portal further comprises cells associated with applications.
- [c7] The method according to claim 4, wherein the cells are organized into pages and the cells on each page are associated with received programs having common characteristics.
- [c8] The method according to claim 7, wherein the cells on each page are associated with received programs having the same theme.
- [c9] The method according to claim 4, wherein the cells are organized into pages and each page has a plurality of zones of cells, the cells in each zone being associated with received programs having common characteristics.
- [c10] The method according to claim 9, wherein the cells in each zone are associated with received programs having the same theme.